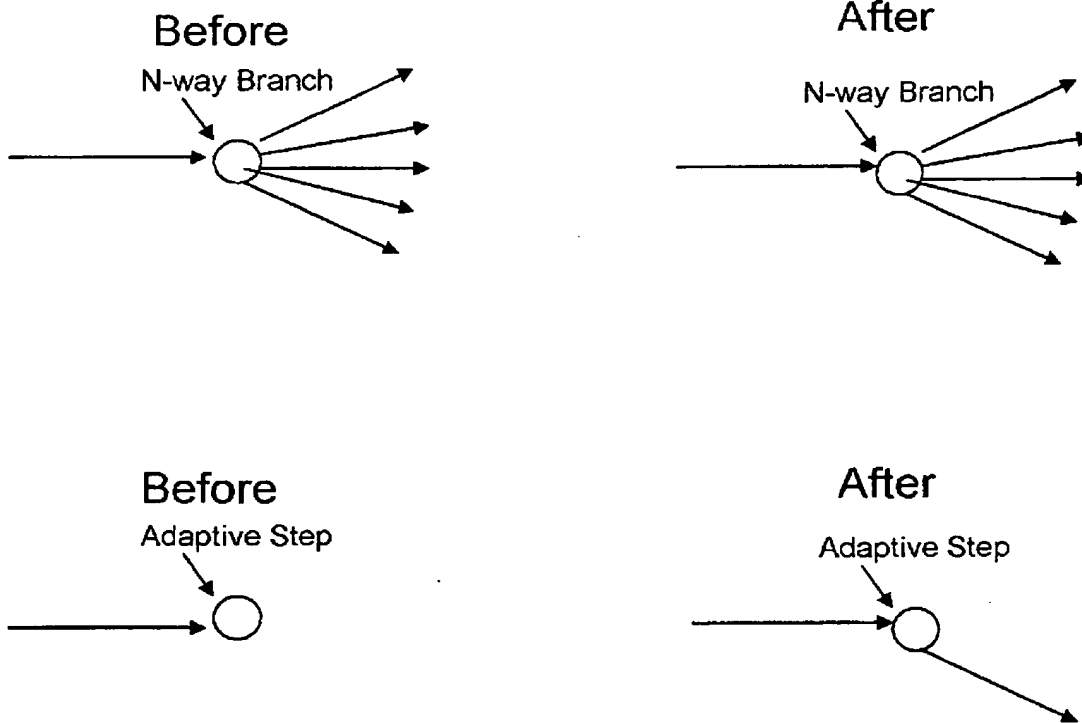


The Present Invention Is Different From Caruso

Caruso et al provides a route step to select an N-way branch where the route is the same before and after the selection route step. The route is not change.



The route for Caruso is illustrated as Before N-way Branch and After N-way Branch where the route is unchanged by processing the selection step. In the present invention the Before Adaptive Step has no successor step and the After Adaptive Step, the route now has the selected step as the successor step. The route is changed by the insertion of the selected step.

The Present Invention Provides Advantages over Caruso:

- 1) The user process is a simple selection as with the N-way Branch.
- 2) The system only requires resources for the route as it is created while processing and not the entire route with all possible branches as with the N-way branches. For small number of branch sets and few active routes, the impact on the system may not be significant. However, when there are large numbers of potential branches, potentially complex nested braches and many active routes,

the system impact can be significant. This was described in the previous response.

3) As described in the specification, collaboration among global and local route developers (See paragraph [0025]) is more easily facilitated where with N-way branches the entire route must be managed as a single project where any change in a sub-route requires a change to the route. Global route management creates overhead, delays, and errors. The present invention does not require global route management where each sub-route is managed independently and locally. The division of the route responsibilities and independent sub-route management facilitates collaboration among separate groups.

The present invention is different from Caruso and provides advantages with an easy to use interface, conserves system resources, and facilitates global collaboration for creating and maintaining routes.

The Present Invention is different from Han, Yanbo et al

Han, Yanbo et al Paragraph 2, Page 7; Paragraph 1, Page 8; Section 4, Pages 7-8 describes meta-models and open-point approaches. In meta-models, "a set of primates is usually defined with which change operations can be performed to a workflow model or certain workflow instances". The present invention is different from meta-models.

"Open-point approaches define special points in a workflow model where adaptation can be made. ... including provisions for multiple choices for users to choose, binding of certain resources at runtime, or provision of an open interface through which the so called 'late-modeling' can be made." Late modeling requires workflow route design capabilities and is different from the present invention.

Han, Yanbo et al does not suggest changes to the route in any mention of the multiple choices for users. In Han, Yanbo et al, all route changes use "late modeling". In paragraph 2 Page 9, Han, Yanbo et al further describes the issues with structural changes, changes to the route, and cautions strong controls to route changes. Han, Yanbo et al does not describe open-point multiple choices


that makes route changes, Hence, the open-point multiple choices for Han, Yanbo et al is an N-way branch selection similar to that described by Caruso. Han, Yanbo et al is different from the present invention.

The present invention is different from Caruso and Han, Yanbo et al and provides advantages with an easy to use interface, conserves system resources, and facilitates global collaboration for creating and maintaining routes.

The original claims are attached.

Please allow the claims.

Respectfully submitted



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